

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3384
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
CELEBRATION OF MAHAPARINIRVAN
Rijju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to celebrate this year as Mahaparinirvan on the occasion of 2550th Buddha Jayanti;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated for the purpose;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to establish various institutions and Centers of International standard in India for study of Buddhism on the occasion of Mahaparinirvan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)to (e) Yes Sir. The Government of India constituted a National Committee under the chairmanship of Honourable Prime Minister to commemorate the 2550th Anniversary of Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha. A National Implementation Committee has also been set up under the chairmanship of Minister of Culture to chalk out the programmes and activities. A sum of Rs. 10.00 crores has been allocated for the commemoration in the current year's Budget. The projects to be taken up depend upon the recommendations of the Committee and the availability of funds.